

Common Name: **pink abalone**
Scientific name: *Haliotis corrugata*



Area of concern: Pt. Conception, CA, to Bahia de Tortuga, Baja California
Year first listed as “Species of Concern”: 2004

Species description: Pink abalone ranges from Pt. Conception, California, to Bahia de Santa Maria, Baja California Sur, Mexico. This species occupies sheltered waters at depths between 6-36 m. The shell is thick and characterized by strong corrugations. There are 2-4 open respiratory apertures with edges that are strongly elevated above the surface of the shell. The cephalic and epipodial tentacles are black, but the epipodial fringes are a mottled black and white, with many tubercles on the surface and a lacey edge (California Department of Fish and Game 1986).

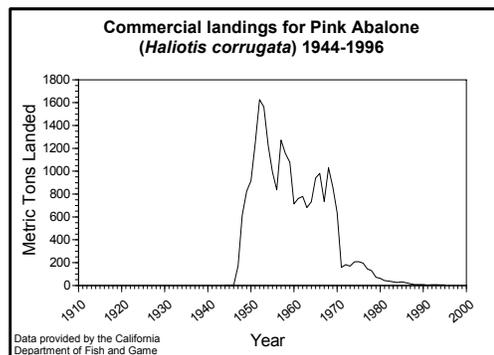
Rationale for “Species of Concern” Listing:

Demographic and Diversity Concerns

Reduced numbers due primarily to overfishing make the species vulnerable to extirpation due to a phenomenon known as the Allee effect (Allee et al. 1949).

Factors for decline:

The primary factors contributing to the decline of this species are overharvest, and suspected illegal harvest and trade. Other factors include predation by sea stars, the southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris*), fishes and octopi, competition (*Strongylocentrotus* sp.), disease (withering syndrome), climate change, and El Niño events. Peak catch for the pink abalone fishery in California occurred in 1952 (> 1627 metric tons) and by 1990 the catch had declined to 1% of the average catches reported between 1950-1970. In 1996 the California Department of Fish and game closed the commercial and recreational abalone fisheries in California, but populations continued to decline. Information regarding the status of pink abalone in Mexico is scant. Aquaculture programs are being pursued in an attempt to artificially enhance populations. A commercial fishery for pink abalone is still in place in Mexico and is managed by local cooperatives.



Existing protections include a proposed system of California Marine Protected Areas, commercial and recreational fishery closures, an Abalone Recovery Management Plan (ARMP), mandated by the California legislature, to be completed by January 1, 2003.

Status Reviews/Research Completed or Underway: No status review underway.

Citations

Allee, W.C., A.E. Emerson, O. Park, T. Park, and K.P. Schmidt. 1949. Principles of animal ecology. Saunders, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

California Department of Fish and Game. 1986. California Abalone. Marine Resources Leaflet No. 11, Marine Resources Division, Long Beach, California, USA.

For further information on this Species of Concern, or on the Species of Concern Program in general, please contact Ms. Marta Nammack, NOAA Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 713-1401, Marta.Nammack@noaa.gov; or Dr. Melissa Neuman, NOAA Fisheries, Southwest Region, Protected Resources Division, 501 W. Ocean Blvd. Suite 4200, Long Beach, California, 90802-4213, (562) 980-4115, Melissa.Neuman@noaa.gov.